

J P Hosford

BARTS MEDICAL PICTURE LIBRARY

J P HOSFORD MS, FRCS

Several years before his death John Hosford registered with the editor his firm disapproval of "these new style *BMJ* obituaries," although he thought that "it would interest its readers if they gave a brief note about what people died of." Unfortunately, the *BMJ* is not prepared to let this obituary appear in the old format, as I wrote it, but in accordance with his other wish I record that John Hosford died the day after an apparently minor fall in his home, having fractured three ribs and sustained a large extrapleural haematoma.

John Hosford came of a remarkable medical family. He and his three brothers qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital; their father, Benjamin Hosford, and two uncles and two cousins were also doctors. During his early years he worked under several eminent surgeons and became private assistant to Sir Berkeley (later Lord) Moynihan in his London practice: some of his memories of Moynihan were recorded in a Christmas issue of the *BMJ* (1988;297:1656-7).

Endowed with skilful hands, John prospered greatly from these early connections. A valuable student textbook on fractures demonstrated his earlier dalliance with orthopaedics, but he became an essentially general surgeon. He was a Hunterian professor of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1932, lecturing on hydronephrosis, and forsook his interest in urology only many years later.

After his appointment as assistant surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1936 he built up a large and highly successful practice. During the war his unit was moved to St Albans and he developed consultant appointments there as well as in Watford, Hitchin, and Leatherhead. After the inception of the NHS and his unit's return to London he gave up most of his outside connections to concentrate on Barts, his private practice, and King Edward VII Hospital.

He was a conscientious and excellent teacher of undergraduates and postgraduates with an easy and unflamboyant style. Always a modest and rather private person of equable temperament, he was a good listener with a great capacity for absorbing information, never wasting a moment in idle chatter. He was a kindly chief and a beautiful surgical technician. Though firmly opposed in principle to the nationalisation of medicine, he scrupulously fulfilled his NHS commitments.

A year before his 60th birthday he astonished the staff at Barts by announcing his intention to retire in the following year. He and his wife, Millicent, then moved to Portugal and made annual trips to distant places. They returned to England 24 years later to live in Clavering, Essex. Both were lovers of the countryside and keen horticulturists wherever they lived. He is survived by Millicent, whom he married in 1932, and by his son and daughter. —RM.

John Percival Hosford, consulting surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital and King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, died 10 February aged 90. Born London, 24 July 1900; educated Highgate School, St Bartholomew's Hospital (MB, BS 1922). Surgical registrar at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, then chief assistant to surgical professorial unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital, becoming assistant surgeon in 1936. On court of examiners of Royal College of Surgeons of England; examined for universities of London, Oxford, Sheffield, and Belfast. Retired 1960.

Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 250 words long; they should be sent within six months, and preferably within three months, of death. "Self written" obituaries are welcome. Good quality, recent photographs are encouraged.

W H LYLE MD, FRCPED, FFOM

Hugh Lyle had three medical careers: in family practice, pharmaceutical medicine, and occupational health.

While working in practice with his father he observed an outbreak of an unfamiliar infectious disease. He documented its features, sent specimens to research centres, and concluded that it was an outbreak of echovirus infection; this was the basis of his MD thesis. His observations on the psychiatric and systemic features that can follow an enteroviral infection have stood the test of time. He was chairman of a study group on myalgic encephalomyelitis and in 1978 organised an international symposium on this topic at the Royal Society of Medicine.

As medical director of Dista Products he helped to set up a long term study of the effect of penicillamine in rheumatoid arthritis. Many publications came from this study group, including comprehensive review articles by Hugh.

In 1977 he returned to industrial medicine as chief medical officer of Courtaulds Group. His observations enabled him to publish important work on the effects of viscose and carbon fibres on employees.

Hugh Lyle had talent and could take responsibility and see the way ahead. His industry and ingenuity were helped by his good humour and ability to inspire confidence in people. He had a large fund of knowledge, gleaned mainly from his catholic taste in books, and was a member of the Savile Club. He died of a malignant brain tumour and is survived by his wife, Pat; son, Martin; and daughter, Amanda. —CFS, POB.

William Hugh Lyle, chief medical officer to Courtaulds Group 1977-90, died 16 April. Born 1 October 1926; educated Ellesmere College, Shropshire, and Manchester University (MB, ChB 1950). National service in Royal Army Medical Corps 1951-3. Principal in general practice, Newton le Willows, Lancashire, 1954-64; part time medical adviser to Akzo Chemie, Kirby, 1957-64. Medical director, Dista Products, Speke, 1964-77.

A BRYCE MB, CHB, DMRD

Alan Bryce was the sole radiologist at Wisbech from 1959 until his retirement in 1988, latterly with sessions in King's Lynn. He combined a keen eye with scrupulous attention to detail and a judicious use of language. He had a reserved manner, rarely showing his emotions, but also had a delightful quiet sense of humour. Local general practitioners appreciated the first class service he introduced for them.

He was a keen amateur engineer, building model standing steam engines and studying Clyde passenger steamers, stereoscopic photography, and amateur radio. While a student he had worked as a projectionist in a Dumbarton cinema. He loved Scotland and returned every year on holiday. After myocarditis in 1969 he suffered intermittently from cardiac problems, though this rarely interfered with his work. He greatly missed his wife, Dr Margaret Bryce, who died in 1980. —JS.

Alan Bryce, formerly a consultant radiologist at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech, died 1 April aged 68. Studied medicine at Glasgow University (MB, ChB 1948); senior registrar in radiology at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.



B T Mains

B T MAINS

FRCS(ED), DLO

Brian Mains's first interest was ear, nose, and throat surgery, but he found his move to general practice unexpectedly stimulating. Shrewd and capable, he was friendly and approachable. He especially enjoyed the challenge of "heartsink" patients, prescribing liberal doses of the "Mains lifestyle management plan." As a houseman he had been a driving force behind the fundraising for the Mother and Baby (Northern Ireland) appeal. He had a zest for life, abundant good humour, and a ready wit. He was proud of his native land and a generous host to several overseas students.

Brian's interests included travel and collecting local art. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of popular music and had once sat on the jury for the Eurovision song contest. He delighted in the fact that as an 11 year old he had beaten the singer Dana in a singing contest. He is survived by his mother and two brothers and two sisters. —RSVC, TDIC.

Brian Thomas Mains, a trainee general practitioner in Sale, Manchester, died 17 February. Born 17 November 1958; educated Masonic School, Dublin, and Grosvenor Grammar, Belfast, and Queen's University, Belfast (MB, BCh, BAO 1983). Resident appointments at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast; appointments in Northern Ireland training scheme for ear, nose, and throat surgery.



G R Staley

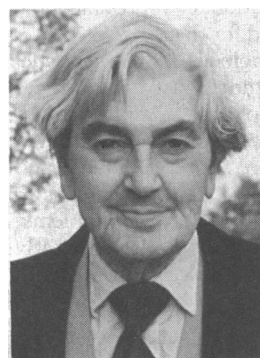
G R STALEY

MRCGP

Geoffrey Staley cared for his patients with a blend of compassion, dedication, and skill complemented by a jovial and infectious sense of humour. Having worked for a short time in Thetford, with the advent of the NHS he moved to the more populous Hull. During the next 30 years he immersed himself in the busy urban practice, became prominent in local medical politics (he was president of the East Yorkshire Division of the BMA in 1971-2), and served as a police surgeon. He served Hull Medical Society for almost 40 years, becoming president in 1977 and being made an honorary member.

Geoff retired after having a pacemaker fitted and took time to enjoy family life, painting, and music with his children, David and Anne, and his wife, Alice. Alice died three and a half years ago. —DJR.

Geoffrey Ridings Staley, a general practitioner in Kingston upon Hull 1948-79, died 5 March aged 78. Born London, 18 September 1912; educated Highgate School, St Bartholomew's Hospital (MB, BS 1938). During war made six crossings to Dunkirk and served in hospital ship "Atlantis" in India, South Africa, and United States, becoming major. Was briefly in general practice in Thetford.



A W Beard

A W BEARD

BSC, FRCP, FRCPSYCH

Bill Beard gained a formidable string of qualifications. After the war, having obtained a place at Cambridge, he took up an option to do his clinical training at Oxford and hence qualified at both universities—with a double first in the case of Cambridge. His exceptional intellect was recognised by Eliot Slater, psychiatry's embattled representative at the National Hospital, Queen Square, who offered the young senior house officer his senior registrar post. The two of them began a research programme that culminated in their classic papers on the schizophrenia-like psychoses of epilepsy.

After being appointed a consultant at the Middlesex Hospital Bill never engaged in full time research again,

and if some of his colleagues were disappointed by this he was not. He was fully extended looking after his consultancy and a large private practice. His clinical work was distinguished by the clarity with which he set his objectives and the consistency with which he attained them. He took immense trouble over his juniors' careers. Any spare time was spent with his family—his wife, Wendy, and their three children.

Stopping work wasn't something that Bill did easily. On reaching 65 he kept up his private practice and the mental health tribunals that reflected his interest in the law. His death came when he finally seemed to be tailing off his commitments.

Bill was totally unflappable, which could make him seem self absorbed. But his pleasure in company was obvious: he expressed himself with pungency and humour and enjoyed these qualities in others. In his private life he was an eccentric. He loved a bargain and was quite unable to throw anything away; everything was labelled and stored. Idiosyncrasies can be tedious; Bill's were endearing. —CMcE.

Alfred William Beard, senior consultant psychiatrist at the Middlesex Hospital until 1985, died 9 February. Born Derby, April 1920; served in Royal Air Force 1939-45; studied medicine at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and Magdalen College, Oxford (BSc in psychology 1950; MB, BChir 1952; BM, BCh 1951). Won Gaskell gold medal prize of Royal Medico-Psychological Society 1955. Senior registrar, department of psychological medicine, National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, and senior fellow, Mental Health Research Fund. Appointed consultant at the Middlesex Hospital 1961.

T C McDougall-Morrison

MRCGP

Seeking adventure, Thomas Cecil McDougall-Morrison—Jock to his friends—joined the Indian Medical Service in 1937 and was appointed surgeon to the governor of Bombay; this meant that he could travel everywhere with the governor and medically turn his hand to almost anything. In 1946 he returned to England to the village of Ferndown, taking over 200 private patients.

In many ways he was ahead of his time: very early on he believed in group practice, and when the opportunity came for a multidisciplinary health centre he jumped at it. He did minor surgery at Wimborne Hospital, and more than 20 years ago an electrocardiograph and a microscope were used in the practice. His list was over 3000 and his work rate, particularly visiting, was prodigious by the time he retired. He continued to visit many of his old patients until his death. It is typical that he was arguing the significance of his blood concentrations within 24 hours of his death.

Jock's interest in everyone and everything, accompanied by a quick mind, uplifted those who came into contact with him. Probably this and his ebullient confidence were his finest qualities. He bore his wife's long illness with fortitude and later found happiness in the companionship of his friend Diana Price. He is also survived by his daughter, Ulrica, and her two children. —CRR.

Thomas Cecil McDougall-Morrison, a general practitioner in Ferndown, Dorset, 1946-78, died 6 April. Born Invergarry, 21 February 1911; studied medicine at Glasgow University (MB, ChB 1933). Lieutenant colonel in Indian Medical Service 1937-46.

A celebration of the life of Professor Tony Mitchell (obituary, 6 April, p 843) will take place in the main hall of the Sports Centre, University of Nottingham, at 11 am, on Saturday 13 July.